

WISCONSIN STATE STATUTE § 765.16

765.16 Marriage contract, how made; officiating person.

(1m) Marriage may be validly solemnized and contracted in this state only after a marriage license has been issued therefor, and only by the mutual declarations of the 2 parties to be joined in marriage that they take each other as husband and wife, made before an authorized officiating person and in the presence of at least 2 competent adult witnesses other than the officiating person. The following are authorized to be officiating persons:

(a) Any ordained member of the clergy of any religious denomination or society who continues to be an ordained member of the clergy.

(b) Any licentiate of a denominational body or an appointee of any bishop serving as the regular member of the clergy of any church of the denomination to which the member of the clergy belongs, if not restrained from so doing by the discipline of the church or denomination.

(c) The 2 parties themselves, by mutual declarations that they take each other as husband and wife, in accordance with the customs, rules and regulations of any religious society, denomination or sect to which either of the parties may belong.

(d) Any judge of a court of record or a reserve judge appointed under s. 753.075.

(e) Any circuit court commissioner appointed under SCR 75.02 (1) or supplemental court commissioner appointed under s. 757.675 (1).

(f) Any municipal judge.

(2m) An officiating person under sub. (1m) (a), (b), (d), (e), or (f) must be at least 18 years old.

Applicants or officiants who have questions or concerns regarding the officiant's authority to perform marriages in Wisconsin should seek legal counsel. Information as to the validity of any specific religious organization or any ordination process is not available from the County Clerk's Office or from the State Vital Records Office.

If you both believe the officiant you have chosen is legally able to perform the marriage, this office will not question the legal status of the officiant. Likewise, this office will not question your religious beliefs if you intend to act as your own officiants. This office does not make any guarantees that this marriage will be valid if, after the marriage, the authority of the officiant is questioned by another party, by an agency, or by the couple.

I have read the above information and understand that the Fond du Lac County Clerk's Office does not guarantee the validity of my intended marriage with respect to the authority of the officiant I have chosen to perform said marriage.

Signature of Spouse

Date Signed

Signature of Spouse

Date Signed